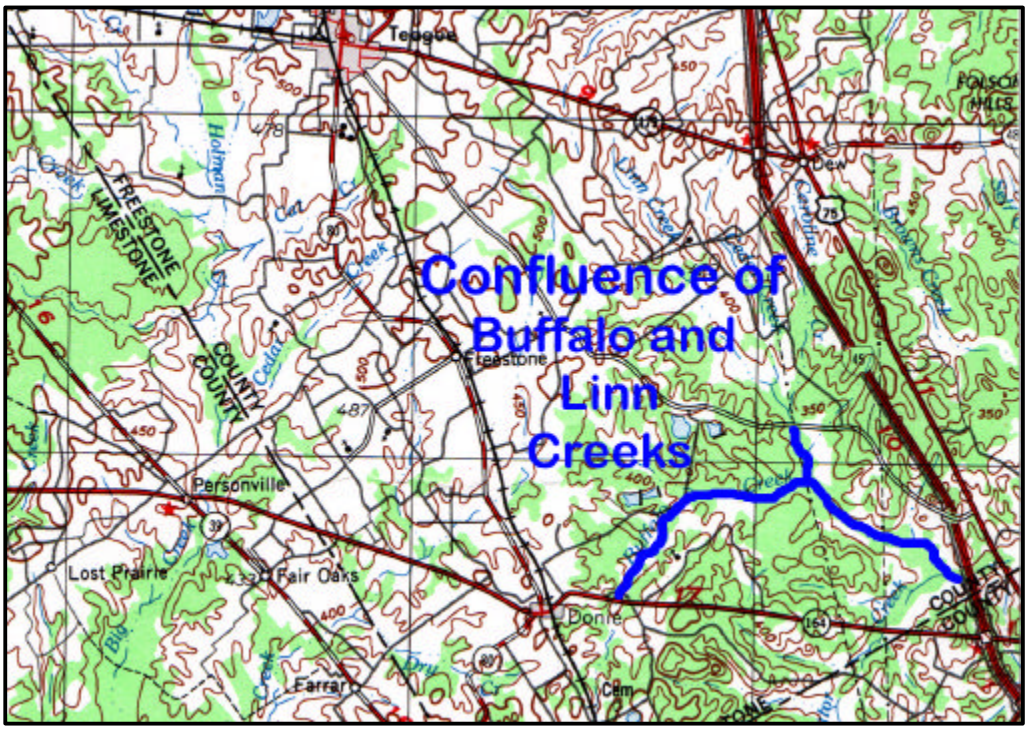

Adapted from USGS Waco, Texas. Original Scale 1: 250,000.

Figure 6. Map Location of the confluence of Buffalo and Linn Creeks

Figure 7. Linn Creek south of CR 691

Buffalo and Linn Creek Confluence

Buffalo and Linn creeks originate in the southwest corner of Freestone County. Linn Creek flows southeasterly about seven miles where it joins Buffalo Creek. Buffalo Creek flows southeasterly 30 miles into Upper Keechi Creek, which is a tributary to the Trinity River (TPWD, 1998). The confluence of the two creeks is within the Oak Woods and Prairies region of Texas (TPWD, 2000). The USFWS (1985) has identified 532 acres within the confluence of these two streams as being priority bottomland hardwood forest. The area is primarily old growth bottomland and old growth upland forest. The bottomland forest consists primarily of water oak, Eastern hop hornbeam, American elm, winged elm, sugarberry, and pecan; whereas the upland forest is composed primarily of post oak, black hickory, and winged elm (USFWS, 1985). This area of bottomland forest is considered one of the highest quality bottomlands in existence and has only a small amount of disturbed wetland and willow swamp associated with it. It also has high value to mammals such as white-tail deer, furbearers, and squirrels, as well as to migratory birds (USFWS, 1985). The candidate segment of Buffalo Creek is from the confluence with Alligator Creek upstream to State Route 164. The candidate segment of Linn Creek is from the confluence with Buffalo Creek upstream to County Road 691.

(1) Biological Function- priority bottomland hardwood habitat displays significant overall habitat value (USFWS, 1985).
(2) Hydrologic Function- bottomland hardwood forest provides valuable hydrologic function relating to water quality and flood control.